



News Release



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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October 1, 2011 Crop Production
For immediate release: October 12, 2011
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Alfalfa hay production in Montana is estimated to be 4.7 million tons, up 4 percent from the previous year, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Alfalfa hay yield is 2.4 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from the August forecast, but up 0.1 ton from the 2010 yield of 2.3 tons per acre. Harvested area, at 1.95 million acres, is unchanged from the August forecast and last year. Other hay yield, at 1.7 tons per acre, is 0.1 ton above the August forecast, but down 0.1 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.4 million tons, down 16 percent from 2010. Other hay harvested area, at 800,000 acres, is unchanged from August, but down 100,000 acres from 2010. All hay production is estimated to be 6.0 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. All hay yield is estimated to be 2.2 tons per acre, up from 2.14 tons per acre last year.

Montana's sugar beets production is forecast at 1,082,000 tons for 2011, unchanged from the September forecast and 14 percent below 2010. Forecasted yield, at 25.1 tons per acre, is unchanged from September, but down 4.4 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage, at 43,100 acres, is unchanged from September, but up 600 acres from last year.

Montana canola producers expect to harvest 30,000 acres in 2011, compared with 17,400 in 2010. Yield is expected to be 1,450 pounds per acre, down 16 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 43.5 million pounds, compared with 30.1 million pounds last year.

United States alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures hay production is forecast at 64.7 million tons, down fractionally from the August 1 forecast and down 5 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.35 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from August 1 and 0.05 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 19.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down 3 percent from the previous year's acreage.

United States other hay production is forecast at 67.0 million tons, down fractionally from the August 1 forecast and down 14 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1993. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.75 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but down 0.20 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down 4 percent from last year.

United States sugar beets production for the 2011 crop year is forecast at 29.2 million tons, unchanged from the September forecast but down 9 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.21 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast. Expected yield is forecast at 24.2 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast but 3.4 tons below last year.

The first United States canola production forecast for 2011 is 1.53 billion pounds, down 37 percent from 2010. Area planted, at 1.07 million acres, is down 2 percent from the August estimate and down 26 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, down 2 percent from August and down 27 percent from 2010. The October yield forecast, at 1,459 pounds per acre, is 254 pounds below last year's yield. If realized, this will be the fifth highest yield on record for the United States

October 1, 2010 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

| Crop | Unit | Acres Planted | | Acres Harvested | | Yield | | Production | |
|---------------|------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|-------|------|-------------|---------|
| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 |
| MONTANA | | (000) Acres | | (000) Acres | | | | (000) Units | |
| Sugar Beets | Tons | 42.6 | 44.9 | 42.5 | 43.1 | 29.5 | 25.1 | 1,254 | 1,081 |
| Canola | Lbs | 17.5 | 31.0 | 17.4 | 30.0 | 17.3 | 14.5 | 30,102 | 43,500 |
| Alfalfa Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 1,950.0 | 1,950.0 | 2.30 | 2.40 | 4,485 | 4,680 |
| All Other Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 900.0 | 800.0 | 1.80 | 1.70 | 1,620 | 1,360 |
| All Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 2,850.0 | 2,750.0 | 2.14 | 2.20 | 6,105 | 6,040 |
| UNITED STATES | | (000) Acres | | (000) Acres | | | | (000) Units | |
| Sugar Beets | Tons | 1,171.4 | 1,249.6 | 1,155.7 | 1,207.6 | 27.6 | 24.2 | 31,901 | 29,180 |
| Canola | Lbs | 1,448.8 | 1,071.0 | 1,431.0 | 1,050.0 | 17.1 | 14.6 | 2,451 | 1,532 |
| Alfalfa Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 19,956.0 | 19,329.0 | 3.40 | 3.35 | 67,903 | 64,714 |
| All Other Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 39,906.0 | 38,276.0 | 1.95 | 1.75 | 77,653 | 66,980 |
| All Hay | Ton | -- | -- | 59,862.0 | 57,605.0 | 2.43 | 2.29 | 145,556 | 131,694 |